

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EB-11

COME-00 JUSE-00 RSR-01 /102 W

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R 251446 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4491

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VALLETTA 1277

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, MT

SUBJECT: WESTINGHOUSE

REF: VALLETTA 1098

1. CROWN ADVOCATE GENERAL EDGAR MIZZI CALLED ON ME EVENING JUNE 22, SAYING HE HAD COME AT PRIME MINISTER'S REQUEST. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS A RATHER VAGUE BUT POLITE COMPLAINT THAT WE HAD NOT PUT WESTINGHOUSE LAWYER CRAWFORD IN TOUCH WITH GOM WHEN HE VISITED MALTA MAY 27 TO 29 IN ORDER TO PREPARE GROUND FOR SUIT AGAINST GOM.

2. I REMINDED MIZZI THAT WEEK BEFORE CRAWFORD'S ARRIVAL I HAD PERSONALLY CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER'S PRIVATE SECRETARY CAMILLERI TO INFORM HIM OF CRAWFORD'S VISIT AND TO OFFER ARRANGEMENTS IF ANYONE IN GOM WISHED TO SPEAK WITH CRAWFORD. MIZZI SAID CAMILLERI APPARENTLY FAILED TO PASS MESSAGE BECAUSE FIRST HARD INDICATION OF LAW SUIT CAME TO MINTOFF'S ATTENTION IN PRESS REPORT THAT SUIT HAD ACTUALLY BEEN ENTERED.

3. I ASKED MIZZI IF HE OR PRIME MINISTER HAD ANY NEW THOUGHTS ON SOLUTION SHORT OF COURT ACTION, POINTING OUT THAT SUIT
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COULD BE WITHDRAWN IF THERE WERE ANY REAL PROSPECTS.
MIZZI CONFESSED HE HAD NO IDEAS, AND DID NOT PROTEST
WHEN I RECALLED THAT GOM/ WESTINGHOUSE NEGOTIATIONS
LAST DECEMBER HAD LEFT PARTIES WITH UNBRIDGEABLE GAP SO
FAR AS LEVEL OF COMPENSATION WAS CONCERNED. WHEN MINTOFF'S
SUBSEQUENT EFFORTS TO SELL PLANT TO LIBYA FAILED, WESTINGHOUSE
HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION.

4. MIZZI'S ONLY FURTHER COMMENT WAS THAT EXAMINATION OF
SPECIFICATIONS OF PLANT DURING PERIOD OF LIBYAN INTEREST
HAD REVEALED IT WOULD BE MUCH HEAVIER CONSUMER OF FUEL THAN
ORIGINALLY AGREED. HE SEEMED TO THINK THIS WOULD BE USEFUL
POINT FOR DEFENSE IN LAW SUIT. GETZ

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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